

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of providing push-to-talk and push-to-conference functionality in a CDMA system. Participants, in one embodiment, may be divided into active and inactive participants with active participants assigned a private uplink/downlink channel pair by the communication system. Inactive participants may be assigned a public downlink channel. In one embodiment, silent active participants of a conference or talk session are timed out and the private uplink/downlink channel pair previously assigned to such individuals are released for use elsewhere in the network or by other members of the conference. In a push-to-talk embodiment one private uplink/downlink channel pair may at any given time be passed between the presently active members of the group.